

is truly a local and federal government partnership model. As of March 1997, the federal government has invested over \$600,000 toward the development of a solution to flooding problems in the Linda Mar district of the City of Pacifica. The City of Pacifica has contributed \$537,000. These funds have been used to complete the planning phases of study for the proposed project. In order to complete the project, a final design phase will be required. This will be followed by acquisition of real estate by the City and construction of the project. The City plans to invest \$13 million in real estate acquisition and \$475,000 in design and construction. The Federal contribution for design and construction is estimated to be only \$4.425 million.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to provide you with an update on the future actions that are necessary to complete this very important and much-needed flood control project. The technical analysis is essentially complete for the San Pedro Creek flood control feasibility study. Completion of the Environmental impact Statement Report (EIS/R) and main report is contingent upon receipt of the US Fish and Wildlife Service biological opinion regarding the potential impact on the recently listed California red-legged frog. Recent communications with the Fish and Wildlife Service indicated no significant changes to the proposed design will be required. The Feasibility Study and EIS/R is expected to be completed in Spring 1997. It is expected that the initial plans and specifications will be completed in the Summer of 1997. Construction is expected to commence in FY 1998.

Mr. Chairman, during the recent series of devastating storms and floods in the West and in California this winter, residents in Linda Mar received alarming warning notices from the City of Pacifica urging them to prepare to evacuate their homes. Fortunately, residents were spared the heaviest and most devastating rains of these storms and San Pedro Creek did not flood. History tells us, however, that it is only a matter of time until the next flood. It is imperative that we provide funding for flood control before the next significant flood. I urge the full funding of the San Pedro Creek Wetlands Restoration and Flood Control Project.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to address another project in my region over which your Subcommittee has jurisdiction. Although the Port of Redwood City is no longer in my Congressional district (due to redistricting in 1992), the continued success of the Port nonetheless does have an impact on the economy of the region.

As you know, due to the shallow nature of San Francisco Bay, maintenance dredging of the Bay is necessary to ensure safe navigation of ocean-going ships. The Port of Redwood City currently has an authorized depth of 30 feet. It is currently on a 3-year dredging cycle to maintain this authorized depth. The most recent maintenance dredging of Redwood City Harbor was completed in September 1996 to 30 feet. The next maintenance dredging is scheduled for March 1999.

There is concern that the new, larger vessels which call on the Port require more than 30 feet of draft. These vessels are forced to light load and top off at other ports—significantly adding to the cost of calling on the Port. There is concern that this will significantly reduce the commercial viability of the Port. I urge you to support a reconnaissance study to determine the federal interests, costs, benefits and environmental impacts of deepening Redwood City Harbor.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your support and for the opportunity to provide you with information concerning these important projects.

IN HONOR OF LA TRIBUNA NEWSPAPER: CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO NEW JERSEY'S HISPANIC COMMUNITY

### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly special occasion, the 35th anniversary of La Tribuna newspaper. This momentous event in my State's journalism community will be recognized at a gala banquet to be held Friday, April 25, 1997, at the Fiesta Restaurant in Wood-Ridge, NJ.

In 1962, large numbers of Hispanic immigrants began relocating to New Jersey. At that time, few newspapers were being published in their native language. La Tribuna was one of the first news sources committed to keeping the Spanish-speaking community in touch with its government and the rest of the world.

For 35 years, La Tribuna has shone light on daily events affecting the Hispanic community. Part of the foundation of the U.S. Constitution is freedom of the press. La Tribuna brings this ideal to life for the Hispanic community on a weekly basis through the paper's commitment to truth and fairness. Whenever and wherever news happens, La Tribuna is at the forefront of articulating events in a concise, no-nonsense manner.

Under the direction of publisher and editor Ruth Molenaar, La Tribuna has grown to be a well-respected member of New Jersey's news community. The people of my district, and New Jersey are fortunate to have Ms. Molenaar and her staff, including Lionel Rodriguez, providing fair and accurate news coverage. They have been a reliable voice for the Hispanic community for almost two generations.

It is an honor to have La Tribuna operating in my district. Its efforts have helped our Nation's Hispanic community to blossom and flourish. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding this remarkable organization for all it has done for the Hispanic community.

### TRIBUTE TO DAVID BROWN

### HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David Brown who this week was named Citizen of the Year by the Las Virgenes Homeowners Association. Mr. Brown has been an outspoken advocate in our community for 25 years, and recognition of his good work is long overdue.

Mr. Brown has used his multitude of talents to work in areas as diverse as teaching, writing, publishing, and as a planning commissioner and citizen activist. Fortunately, he has seen fit to use his talents for the greater good of our local community. Dave brings to his work a rare blend of expertise and a tireless spirit of volunteerism. Although he has given freely of his time and resources to many worthy causes, his top priority has always been protection of the Santa Monica Mountains.

His dedication to protect the Santa Monicas is unparalleled. He has played various roles in

his effort to protect the mountains, from serving on the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Planning Commission Advisory Committee, the Sierra Club's Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, and the Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council Board. Dave has done extensive work on monthly newsletters which served to defend the mountains from over development.

Mr. Brown has indeed been a lifelong steward of the Santa Monica Mountains, ensuring that this natural sanctuary will be available for generations to come.

### HELP CLEAN UP OUR HIGHWAYS

### HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Visual Pollution Reduction Act, legislation that would reduce the clutter of billboards along our Nation's roads and highways.

Today, Scenic America released a report entitled "The Highway Beautification Act—A Broken Law." The report detailed how, despite the Highway Beautification Act, the number of billboards along our Nation's highways has continued to grow. Each year 5,000 to 15,000 additional billboards are built. Billboards that do not conform to States and local zoning ordinances continue to clutter our Nation's roads. In addition, State highway departments subsidize the billboard industry by operating permitting programs that lose money and use taxpayer funds to cut down trees to improve billboard visibility.

Billboards destroy the scenic beauty of our countryside and the architectural beauty of our inner cities. Billboards sell liquor and cigarettes to our Nation's children, especially in inner-city neighborhoods and poor communities. Billboards are visual pollution.

For this reason, I am introducing the Visual Pollution Reduction Act. This bill would prohibit new billboards in unzoned, rural areas. It would place a cap, at the current level, on the total number of billboards permitted in a State. And, it would prohibit States from removing trees and other vegetation to make a billboard more visible.

The Highway Beautification Act is broken. We must fix it. I hope that Congress will do the right thing and pass the Visual Pollution Reduction Act. America's highways would be visibly improved.

### WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to salute my alma mater, West Chester University, on the occasion of its 125th anniversary. On September 25, 1871, Principal Ezekiel Cook welcomed the first class of students to West Chester University, then known as the West Chester Normal School. Since that first year